

R E M A R K S

In the advisory action, paper no. 20050520, dated May 25, 2005, the examiner noted that the application has not been passed to issue because the provisional double patenting rejections are still outstanding.

In response, applicants note that no further action on behalf of the applicants is required. More specifically, in the case of provisional double patenting rejections, MPEP 804(I)(B) states:

“. . . If the “provisional” double patenting rejection in one application is the only rejection remaining in that application, the examiner should then withdraw that rejection and permit the application to issue as a patent, thereby converting the “provisional” double patenting rejection in the other application(s) into a double patenting rejection at the time the one application issues as a patent.”

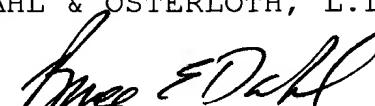
The provisional double patenting rejections in this application pertain to application serial no. 09/371,708, which is still pending before the Patent Office. Thus, the appropriate action for the examiner to take in this application is exactly that action specified by MPEP 804(I)(B).

In addition, applicants note that in the Patent Office response, paper no. 22, dated March 3, 2005, to applicants' previously filed Petition to Withdraw Holding of Abandonment, the examiner noted in section 2 that the application would be passed to issue provided that “the allowed claims are placed in independent form.” Applicants filed an amendment on April 1, 2005, to do just that. Accordingly, applicants believe that claims are in condition for immediate allowance.

If any questions remain to be resolved, the examiner is requested to contact the applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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